

Plan your trip to Portland, OR

Weather:

Although the Pacific Northwest has a reputation for dark and rainy weather, early September can be quite spectacular. Here are the averages for September:

High: 75°F Low: 54°F Rainfall: 1.49"

Up-to-date weather information can be found here - <http://www.weather.gov/>

Getting To and From Portland:

- Portland International Airport - PDX

Portland Airport is conveniently located in Northeast Portland. Travelers wishing to go downtown can take light rail, the Trimet "MAX" Red Line, for a small fare (currently \$2.50 each way) to the city center (Pioneer Square North Max Station) and then transfer to either the Green or Yellow Line (Pioneer Place SW 5th Max Station) to travel south to Portland State University (PSU South/SW 5th and Jackson Max Station) and walk to University Place. Tickets can be purchased at the airport light rail station next to baggage claim. Need an app for that? Try PDXbus (it's free and works for light rail too).

- Amtrak - Cascades

Union Station is located next to the revitalized Pearl District and has easy transit access to downtown Portland and Portland State University.

Food and Drink

- Microbrews/Breweries

Beer? In Portland? Well, maybe... [Beer Advocate guide](#) to Portland. [Portland Taphunter](#) (because there is an app for finding craft beers or just the closest brewpub or you could just read up on NW microbrews in advance). Best walkable places for larger groups: Rogue Hall, Deschutes Brewery, Pyramid Ales, Hair of the Dog (long-walkable via the Eastbank Esplanade but the nearest Portland headquartered brewery).

- Food Carts

It will be hard to choose. Portland has more than 500 food cart vendors. In fact the first ever North American mobile food cart conference is being held in Portland Sept 13-15th so you may be able to rub elbows with food cart conference attendees as you dine. There's an [app](#) of course. Note: most food carts are cash only! One of the top five cart pods (a place with lots of carts) in downtown in a mere two blocks from University Place on SW 4th between College and Hall. Recommended carts: Nong's Khao

Man Gai 2 (get the Khao Man Gai!), Portland Soup Company, Hog and Hen Acadian Kitchen, Tandoor's Saffron Indian Kitchen and Chilango.

- Coffee

Seattle used to be the coffee hub of the Northwest but Portland is now the top city in what is being called coffee's third wave: the rise of the indie craft roaster. Need to tank up: here's a [map](#). Unbelievable, but there is no app for indie-coffee in Portland. It doesn't count even if a Portland app company did develop the myStarbucks app.

Things to do in Portland:

- Eastbank Esplanade/Waterfront Park Loop

Want to go for a run or a walk? Waterfront Park/Esplanade offers a 3 mile loop for running, walking and/or biking. Distance can be shortened (or lengthened) depending on which bridges you choose to cross the Willamette River. The path to the waterfront is 5 short blocks from University Place.

- Go for a Bike Ride

Bring your bike or [rent one](#) from the University. Portland was rated the Best Bike City in 2012 and is easy to visit by bike. Can't decide between microbrews and bicycles? [You don't have to](#).

- Powell's City of Books

Books. Lots and lots and lots of books. The largest used and new bookstore in the world. [Located in downtown Portland](#), and occupying an entire city block, the City stocks more than a million new and used books. Nine color coded rooms house over 3,500 different sections, offering something for every interest, including an incredible selection of out-of-print and hard-to-find titles. And yes, there's an app to help you find your way around the store. Also, there are two Powell's outlets at the Portland Airport. They are too small to need apps to navigate.

- Portland's Institute for Contemporary Arts (PICA): [Time Based Art Festival](#) September 12 – 20th

This festival draws artists from across the country and around the globe for a convergence of contemporary performance and visual art. Installations and live performances fill out theaters, temporary galleries and unexpected public spaces throughout Portland, activating the city with art and energy.

- Gardens and Parks:

Walkable and/or light rail accessible: [Lan- Su Chinese Garden](#), [Forest Park](#) over 70 miles of trails, [Washington Park International Rose Test Garden](#) (not to be mistaken for the "Portland Rose Garden" which is our professional basketball arena and which is where your GPS unit will send you if you don't specify which Rose Garden you want to go to), and the [Portland Japanese Garden](#)